

Tilden and the Democracy.

We publish a paragraph this morning with regard to the sentiment of the Democrats at Harrisburg towards TILDEN, of New York. We are not surprised at what is said in that paragraph. The TILDEN and money-changers' party of New York defeated the Democrats in Ohio. There can be no doubt of that. That defeat was the severest blow the Democracy have received since the war. The Democrats who assisted to bring about that defeat could hardly be esteemed as one to whom the Democratic party should be grateful. Quite the contrary. A man who has no greater devotion for the party to which he professes to belong than to assist in defeating it for his individual benefit can expect from that party nothing. He will have to look elsewhere for support. This strategy of men who seek elevation by open resistance to the party to which they belong in order to force themselves upon it is as unwelcome as it is treacherous, and nobody that attempts it will profit by it. It is an act of folly by which a man invokes upon his own head the general censure of his friends, and proves himself not worthy of public position, since a man that is unfaithful to his political alliances cannot be supposed to be reliable as the guardian of the public interests. Indeed, he but displays that self-conceit that magnifies his personal importance and subordinates the most important public interests to his ambition. The people can never be made to respect and support a man who shows such bad faith and personal vanity.

But why should there be such zeal to press upon the country a citizen of a State who has furnished already two candidates for the presidency who met defeat? It is not good policy, and nothing could make it tolerable but a towering fame and an ability and public standing that were eminently superior. New York has no such citizen that we know of. She and her Democratic people ought to be grateful that her local claims have met with such high consideration, and should support the nominee of the party with signal zeal, indifferent about the State from which he hails. Her sons have had a full opportunity, and now let her concede the lead to other States.

Parties are unavoidable in this republic; but the very safety of the Government as well as the public virtue depends upon the honesty and sincerity of the communities forming those parties. When leaders cease to act from principle and honor, and only maintain party alliances from personal motives, they pervert the true objects and ends of party organizations—which ends are the protection of the Government and the preservation of the order and peace of society. As long as there are regarded and pursued with good faith the country is secure, protected as it is by parties vying with one another as to which shall most effectually defend the principles of the Government and the peace and prosperity of the country. When party is subordinated to personal objects and ambitions public virtue is directly assailed and public administration corrupted.

No man is so much to be distrusted as he who puts his personal interests above the duty he owes to the party to which he belongs, for he thus puts himself above the public interests, to protect which he espoused the principles of the party to which he attached himself. It is a fatal step, and we think fortunately so, when a man, for light and transient causes, raises an opposition to his party to promote his own advancement to office and honor. There is a latent judgment in the public mind that does not fail to condemn fairly and justly this, and it is a sad failure to give proper direction to retributive justice.

In some sort we believe that the immediate and personal TILDEN party have violated their fealty to the Democratic cause. That would be enough to quash Mr. TILDEN's claims to the nomination for the presidency; but the fact that New York has had two nominees—and defeated ones at that—certainly makes it fair and proper that the next one shall hail from another State.

Too Fast.

The whether-or-no-resumption papers are soliciting themselves upon the refusal of the House of Representatives to order the main question upon the anti-contraction resolution proposed by Mr. RIA, of Missouri. They are evidently thankful for small favors. We are sure that those who opposed the vote upon the resolution were of all them by no means in favor of contraction. There is a large body of Republicans who oppose contraction, while the great body, if not nearly all, of the Democrats are also opposed to it.

Our interpretation of the refusal to vote directly on Mr. RIA's resolution was that the House as well as the Democratic party was not ready for it.

The questions relating to the currency are too important to be lightly or hurriedly disposed of. The Democratic party before acting ought to consider the matter well, and be prepared to act with harmony upon it. Gentlemen should be patient, and not spring the subject upon the House. They are themselves liable to the suspicion of seeking to get the weather-gauge of their contemporaries by making a popular movement in advance of them. All we do not see that it would have been at all wise in an anti-contractionist to vote for Mr. RIA's resolution to avoid being considered a contractionist. Such a vote could not be fairly regarded as favoring contraction. It is yet early, and it is proper to wait the result of that deliberation which the important matter demands.

Railroads.

That railroads are to become profitable property—perhaps the most profitable in the country—we do not doubt; but that very many of them are, at their original cost, altogether unable to pay dividends, is an undeniable fact. It is to be regretted, but it is true. But property that yields nothing can be held by its owners. It must be sold; and by sale its cost to new owners is reduced, and the process of reduction must continue, if the first sale does not accomplish the point, until the cost is so reduced that the earnings of the property are sufficient to pay current expenses and a dividend upon its final cost—which is the capital.

It is important to the public that this inevitable process of reduction of cost should take place without unjust delay for many reasons; the chief one of which is that paying railroads are almost sure to be vigorously managed, while unprofitable ones are too generally inefficiently and wastefully conducted. A struggling road is ever one in doubtful credit. It is subjected to heavy taxes when it is least able to bear them. Then, stockholders who receive no dividends become careless and indifferent, while accountability grows loose, and the manage-

ment is entrusted often to inexperienced and incompetent persons, while slow pay to officers and operatives constantly tends to engender neglect and discontent, which have probably caused more disasters and loss of life and property than all other causes put together.

Another very bad consequence is the constant growth of power amongst managers in proportion to the indifference of stockholders. High officials "spurge" like pompous administrators of the effects of the dead. The most arrogant and hectoring officials are generally found upon insolvent railroads, as also are often found amongst the most extravagant salaries. Desperate stockholders are often ready to hunt for new managers, under the impression that this property may be made profitable, when the true causes of its depression are: First, excessive cost; and secondly, the want of business to make it profitable. To get the man that is to work the revolution, they imagine possible, and salary becomes with them what it is with a man hunting for a place, "no object," or, rather, no cause for hesitation. In this way many railroads in the Union not only grow no better, but are plunged only deeper into debt. The sooner such railroads go through the process of the reduction of capital by sale the better for all concerned, especially the public.

The public are more deeply concerned in these matters than is generally supposed. All insolvent roads ought by the necessary process to be made solvent. We have no corporation especially in view when we say this. We mean to speak in the widest sense. Commerce and the State would be greatly better off by the invigoration of the system of railroads in this manner. We believe it would be beneficial to the social welfare and public virtue of the land. The great arteries of commerce and social intercourse should be managed with the system, energy, and order which healthful prosperity gives; and there should be an end of the evils which flow from crippled corporations, and their inefficiency and the bad economical effects thereof.

Mr. Minister SCHENCK continues to flounder through his defenses against various accusations involving him in corruption. We do not see that he acquires himself of stain. Very far from it. His case is not bettered by the aid he receives from the well-known "defender" REVEREND JOHNSON. On the contrary, it is rather damaged thereby. The simple truth is, that from the foundation of the Government such scandal as that concerning Mr. SCHENCK has never been heard of with regard to any first-class foreign mission from this country. It is hardly possible that such scandal is entirely unfounded. No man who reads SCHENCK's letters can for a moment doubt that he is in a very culpable, and we fear, to a serious extent.

The late Mr. GREELY was a warm supporter of the 3.65 irreconvertible bond. *The Tribune*, of which he was more than the promoter, because he did not steal the fire with which he warmed it into life—calls the 3.65-bond theory an absurdity. Which is the better authority, GREELY dead or the *Tribune* alive?

SOUTHERN PLANTER, for January.—We have the *Southern Planter* for January. It has a portrait of General WILLIAM H. RICHMOND and a just biographical sketch of the General, who, indeed, was the most active of all the gentlemen who exerted themselves in behalf of the State Agricultural Society in its formation. He originated the *Henrico Agricultural Society*, which was the nucleus of the State Society. Therefore he has rendered important services to the cause of agriculture, for which the agricultural community cannot be too grateful to him. Removed by age and infirmity from active life, he deserves to be cherished in the minds of his old friends and that great community which has been so benefited by his labors.

The *Planter* has the address of Mr. B. JOHNSON BARBOUR and a number of very practical articles. We mention a very sensible one from our friend S. W. FICKLES, of Albemarle, on the care of stock in the winter. "Some points on commercial fertilizers" contains sensible suggestions. The statement of the experiment made by Lord Kintore, of Scotland, with stable-manure kept under cover and the same manure exposed is very valuable. Land manured with that which had been exposed produced 272 bushels of potatoes, while land manured with that which had been kept under cover produced 442 and 447 bushels per acre! The fields thus manured produced wheat the following year—one, forty-two bushels and eighteen pounds; and the other, fifty-eight bushels and five pounds; that manured with covered manure yielding the larger amount. How decisively against our slovenly system of farm-manures this is!

There are, indeed, many articles in this No. that are discussed with brevity and excellent practical sense. The *Planter* deserves the hearty support of the farming community.

The word "contributed" in a "Lynch-burger's" article in Saturday's issue of the *Dispatch* ought, of course, to have been "attributed." A lady wrote the article, and has requested that this correction should be made.

We have received the first No. of the *Louisiana Weekly Record*, published at Louisiana Courthouse by Mr. DAN. MURPHY, late of this city. It is a handsome sheet, well edited, and promises to prove a credit to that country.

General Assembly of Virginia.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1876.
SENATE.

Lieutenant-Governor THOMAS in the chair. No prayer.

A number of House bills were taken up, twice read, and appropriately referred.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Mr. PEARSON, from the Committee for Courts of Justice, reported bills: To confirm the title to certain lands in Princess Anne county; to provide for election of city judges, with an amendment; to amend section 10 of chapter 99 of the Code, in reference to unlawful hunting. [This bill was subsequently passed.]

Mr. NEWCOMB, from the Committee on General Laws, reported bills: To amend section 68 of chapter 34 of the Code, in relation to the deposit of securities to be made by foreign insurance companies, &c.; to amend and reenact section 1 of chapter 100 of the Code as amended by an act, &c.; in relation to hauling seines in the waters of Accomac and Northampton counties; a bill to amend section 1 of chapter 130 of the Acts of 1874-75, to release certain persons from the payment of interest, &c., in the county of Wise; to extend the time with which certain lands in Buchanan county sold for taxes may be redeemed.

Mr. FARR, from the Committee on Federal Relations, reported joint resolutions in relation to the graves of Confederate soldiers at Fort Delaware.

Mr. QUINCY, from the Committee on Public Institutions, reported a bill to amend section 18 of chapter 35 of the Code, allowing commissions to the general agent and stock-keeper of the penitentiary, with amend-

ment. Mr. SHIRLEY, from the Committee on Agriculture, &c., reported House bill to amend the charter of the Electric Manufacturing Company, of Chesterfield, with an amendment.

COMMITTEE ON TOBACCO.

The CHAIR announced that Messrs. PERRY, HINTON, SMITH, HENRY, and CLARK would serve on the Joint Committee on Tobacco, &c.

Mr. HENRY presented a joint resolution instructing our representatives in Congress to procure, if possible, the passage of a law reducing the tax on manufactured tobacco to twelve cents. Agreed to, under a suspension of the rules.

PASSED.

Senate bill to confer upon the Worcester Railroad Company certain privileges and immunities, &c.

Senate bill to prevent the publication of medicines to procure abortions and miscarriages.

Joint resolution in relation to the claim of Virginia against the United States on account of the war of 1812 was also passed. A number of bills were ordered to be engrossed.

INTRODUCED.

By Mr. HENRY: A bill to authorize the qualified voters of Halifax county to vote on the question of the purchase or construction of a bridge at South Boston.

By Mr. HENRY: A bill to amend the act relating to the petition of Septimus Baxter for the privilege of carrying on a gift enterprise.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House met at 12 M. Speaker HANGER in the chair. No prayer.

PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. BOGART: Joint resolution authorizing the Auditor of Public Accounts, at his discretion, to suspend legal proceedings on the official bond of James M. Corbett, late treasurer of Southampton county.

By Mr. KINCKADE: Resolution of inquiry as to the expediency of so amending the law as to reduce the fees of county and circuit court clerks.

By Mr. C. U. WILLIAMS: Bill to amend the tobacco inspection laws.

By Mr. SIMES SMITH: A bill authorizing the assistant assessor of York county to complete the duties of the late assessor. Under a suspension of the rules the bill was placed on the calendar.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Gloucester: Resolution in relation to the expediency of authorizing the recorder in the office of Register of Lands of certified copies of any paper recorded in the offices of the clerks of the courts of the Commonwealth.

PROPOSED EXPULSION.

PETER JONES (colored) offered a resolution for the expulsion of the House reporter of the *Evening Journal* because of the publication of a sketch of supposed scenes in the House during the debate on the Centennial bill, in which article the colored delegate from Northampton was represented to have made a ridiculous speech.

Messrs. BAGWELL, TALLEY, GILMAN, and PERHAM, defended the *Journal's* House reporter, who, in fact, was not the author of the article, and the expelled member, James Carter, and PETER JONES insisted upon his expulsion.

On motion of Mr. WITHERS the resolution was dismissed.

REDUCTION OF PAY.

Mr. ALLEN offered a resolution providing for the reduction of the pay of members of the Legislature. The House refused to suspend the rules so that it might be immediately considered, and it was referred to a committee.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

House bill to extend the corporate limits of the town of West Point.

House bill to amend the charter of the town of Clatsmith, in Pittsylvania.

House bill to amend the charter of the town of Waterford.

COMMITTEE ON TOBACCO-INSPECTIONS.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of the following special joint committee on all questions relating to the inspections of tobacco: Messrs. FLOOD, CRUMP, CLARK, CAMPBELL, TRIST, HUBARD, WITCHER, BAKER, CRANE, COLEMAN, and GORDON.

The proposition to appoint this committee, offered on Friday, was warmly supported by Messrs. A. I. CLARKE, LAMMIE, McNEILL, and GORDON.

THE CENTENNIAL BILL.

The motion of Mr. ALLEN to reconsider the vote by which the House refused to order by its third reading Senate bill making an appropriation for the collection, transportation, and exhibition, and the return of articles exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition, during the debate on the Centennial bill, after two hours' discussion the House adjourned, at 2:45 P. M., without determining the question.

In a few short months three of the four men who for so many years gave direction to the milling interests of this city have passed away—Abram Warwick, James Dunlop, and Lewis C. Greenway. Only Thomas W. Morison remains, and we pray it may be God's will to spare him yet long to the people in whose hearts he holds so large a place. Few cities have been blessed with four such men. Their names are written on every page of our history for the last forty years, and they will be remembered as long as the city knows no shadow. —*Southern Planter and Farmer.*

How's This? A Harrisburg letter to the New York *Tribune* says:

"Among the Democratic members of the Legislature there is a strong disposition to entertain the question, and not much positive conviction expressed in favor of any man as the most desirable candidate. A pretty strong negative determination exists, however. They do not know whom they are for, but they know whom they are against. This feeling is almost universal."

A ROTTEN STATE BOROUGH.—[Special dispatch to the *Baltimore Gazette*.]—*Washington*, January 7.—When the House meets next Monday there will be a bill introduced to repeal the act of Congress authorizing the construction of Colorado on the ground that it had not the actual number of inhabitants required for the admission of a territory.

Whatever may have been thought of the wisdom or policy of the assumption set on foot by the people of Colorado, it is now a fact that it is a handsome sheet, well edited, and promises to prove a credit to that country.

It is understood here that a change in the postmaster of Richmond is among the certainties of the near future. It is understood that Miss Van Lew, the present incumbent, will retire, and give place to a Republican from outside of Richmond. Major Carter is named as her probable successor. —*Washington special—Alexandria Gazette.*

The experience of the city of Boston under the stringent license-law which went into operation last May has recently been made known from which it appears that the places where spirituous liquors are sold are by nearly seven hundred that they were last year, and the arrests for drunkenness have fallen off twenty per cent, while \$164,424.14 have been paid into the city treasury for license-fees.

Headlines and Currier is the ticket for which the Pennsylvania Democrats are organizing. —*New York Tribune.*

Speculations on the Earthquake.
That the temperature of our earth increases with the depth, and we descend into the body has been conclusively established, and though the exact rate of increase may not have been very definitely ascertained, still the results obtained by careful observations made in deep mines and at borings for artesian wells are quite very closely, and show such a rate of increase as would lead us to assume that at the depth of twenty-five miles below its surface the earth no longer remains solid, but exists in the state of a molten semi-fluid mass. By the action of heat there is a boiling of molten gases and vapors are ever being generated and evolved, which press upward with inconceivable force.

The words of Holy Writ declare that in the beginning "the earth was without form and void," which, I think, means that the earth was a boiling mass of molten matter, and that the plain surface of the earth, and the land and the sea had their appropriate bounds. When the mountains were first upheaved they rose not as soft, coherent bodies, but their hardened material was thrust up in large, angular, fragmentary masses, piled upon piles, with vast intervals of a hollow, empty, and substance. Through the pores and hollows of these mountain masses the fiery forces of the seething center continued for ages to expend their gradually waning energies, casting out much matter, fluid and gaseous. In the age immediately succeeding the upheaval, the earth was in the normal state of the earth, and thousands of volcanoes were for a long time busily employed in relieving her excited condition. But as the fury of the central fires gradually subsided, fewer vents for their gaseous products were needed, and most of the volcanoes in time became extinct.

By the creation of mountains a sufficient outlet was provided for the escape of the elastic forces generated by the internal fires, so that no further upheavals on any grand scale have ever since taken place. The raising of some small islands, and the subsiding of others, and the shifting of the land and the sea, and the thinning of the mountain regions, and the deep bed of the ocean. Hot springs, which are usually found in mountain valleys, would seem to indicate a thinness of the earth's crust in their localities.

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York riding just beneath our feet may cause some of us to walk more cautiously. —*J. T. D.*
Henrico county, December 30, 1875.
(Our correspondents are entitled to be heard; but we take the liberty of saying that in our opinion not only his theories, but his deductions are wrong.)

Another Earthquake.

Richmond, Va., January 7, 1876.
Editors Dispatch:—Some time during the war—I think it was in the winter of 1862-3 or 1863-4—there was an earthquake-shock experienced here. I think there was no shaking of houses, but the noise was, if anything, more fearful than that of December last. I have been surprised that no paper has referred to it. If you consider it a matter of sufficient interest you will find allusions to it in the papers at that time. D.